

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2623
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Additional Outlay for Mining Sector
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has cleared an additional outlay of Rs. 2116 crore to implement the other aspects of the Mineral Exploration Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to create baseline geoscientific data for open dissemination and a national aero geophysical programme to map the entire country to find deep seated mineral deposits; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) & (b): The amount estimated for implementing National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), approved by the Government, in the next five years is about Rs.2116 crore. This is proposed to be funded from the regular annual budget of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of Ministry of Mines, and additional funds from National Mineral Exploration Trust and budgetary support by the Central Government.

(c) & (d): Yes. As per the NMEP, the Government will make pre-competitive baseline geoscience data available for open dissemination free of charge. Government will create baseline geoscience data as a public good and fund the generation and dissemination of such data.

GSI has initiated a National Aero-geophysical Mapping Program over the Obvious Geological Potential (OGP) areas covering an area of about 8 lakh sq. km for acquiring the baseline magnetic and spectrometric data. This project is planned to be completed by 2019 and aims at, inter alia, identifying targets for concealed and deep seated mineral deposits. By April 2017, survey over an area of about 2.05 lakh sq. km is planned to be carried out.

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